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The Rural District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1969



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1969

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health*

Public Health Department, Prospect House, Hexham.
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Duties :

J. HEWITT, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector.

D. H. REED, M.A.P.H.I.
*Senior Additional Public Health
Inspector.*

D. HUBBICK, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector.

H. WILKINSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector.

Public Health.
Housing.
Meat and Foods
Inspection.
Council House
Management.
Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

Miss D. HENDERSON

Housing Visitor

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Hexham :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

Circumstances in the Rural District did not change significantly during the year. Conditions in the many communities that make up the District are so diverse that they lend themselves only to generalisations, but everywhere there have been quite profound changes over a relatively few years. At one extreme is the country village, gradually losing population but still an active community, depending largely on agriculture. It has lost a number of houses, often to provide holiday accommodation or week-end use, it has in many cases lost its school, and has a deteriorating bus system. The standard of housing, water supply and sanitation have however been much improved, and while the attractions of peace and charm which it offers continue, it is by no means a dying village. At the other extreme is the village within easy travelling distance of Newcastle, a township now with much new building but no new industry to provide local employment. It is urban in its outlook and requirements, and its development has been undertaken at very heavy cost for water and modern sanitation. If changes have been noticeable throughout the District so have improved standards, and the health and welfare of the people are most satisfactory.

The mid-year population is estimated at 20,750, an increase of 250 over the previous year, and there was a slight natural increase of births over deaths. There is no means of knowing in which parts of the District population is increasing or decreasing until the next census, due in 1971, and it will be interesting to see how one's impressions of change are borne out then. The vital statistics for the year are very favourable, and although the birth rate was rather lower and the death rate rather higher than the national average, the difference is small. There were three infant deaths, all under the age of one month, giving an infant mortality rate of 10 per 1,000 live births compared with 28.0 per thousand for the country as a whole. The other deaths follow the usual

pattern, with heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer as the main causes of death, while half the deaths were of people aged 75 years and over.

The incidence of infectious disease has continued to decline, and in 1969 there were only four notifications, none of any significance. Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, with no deaths, and in this disease too the frequency and severity have decreased noticeably. Undulant fever, the human disease caused by *Brucella abortus* infection in cattle and frequently transmitted by unpasteurised milk, is not notifiable, but information is given about some cases by the general practitioner or hospital physician. Six cases came to light in this way during the year, and as all the patients were supplied with untreated milk from one source the dairy herd was investigated. As a result an order was made on 8th July, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations of 1959 requiring satisfactory heat treatment of all milk sold. The order was withdrawn on 28th August when the herd was found to be free of infection. Apart from the herd investigation required in such an incident, samples of milk are taken every quarter from farms which produce and retail unpasteurised milk. As some 45 herds are involved this is a time-consuming task for the Public Health staff, and it still does not guarantee safe milk as infection may occur between visits. The first steps have however now been taken to eradicate brucellosis in cattle, the only real solution.

The Council have recently undertaken a large house-building programme where land and modern sewage treatment facilities are available, and 46 houses were completed in 1969, while a further 117 were under construction. There is also a good deal of private building, with 101 houses completed and 68 under construction. The Council have now over a thousand houses, but the waiting list appears to remain as high as ever. Many older houses have been modernised with the aid of improvement grants, and with the raising of the maximum discretionary grant from £400 to £1,000 a new incentive has been given. The total number of houses so improved is 89 an increase of 27 during the year. The value of such an improvement scheme to an area such as this is inestimable. It means that good houses are provided in places where replacement by Council houses could not be considered and would be inappropriate, and that the standard of housing throughout the District has risen.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, provide almost all the District with piped water which is satisfactory in quality and quantity. The water is not unduly plumbo-solvent, but has a low natural content of fluoride. For this reason the supply from Gunnerton was raised during the year to 1 part per million. The Company take frequent and regular samples, and undertake investigation and remedial measures where necessary. As well as taking check samples from the Company's supplies the Health Department are responsible for private and proposed supplies, and advice is given where the sample is unsatisfactory. Detailed information about water supplies is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's part of the report. Some small extensions of mains water were completed during the year, and others to supply Keenleyside, Bingfield, Great Swinburne and West Lands End, Haydon Bridge are under preparation.

It has been necessary to report unfavourably for a number of years on the adequacy of the sewage disposal system from Corbridge to the eastern limits of the District, but good progress is being made in the very large and costly Mid-Tyne sewerage and Sewage Disposal scheme, where both stages are under construction. There remain a few small communities where improvement is planned, and on their completion it can be said that the whole District is adequately provided with modern sewage disposal facilities.

I have to thank the Committee for their continued support and encouragement, and to record my appreciation of the work done by the members of the Department. In the death early in 1969 of Mr. Geoffrey Nicholson, the Council and the staff lost a Clerk whose sound advice and understanding had always been at their disposal. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. V. M. Taylor, became Acting Clerk until Mr. G. T. Noon came as full-time Clerk in November, and to them too are due my thanks for their co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	196,030
Estimated Population 1969..	..	..	..	..	..	20,750

Vital Statistics

Live Births—	Males		Females		Total	
Legitimate..	156	..	148	..	304	
Illegitimate.	3	..	5	..	8	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population				..	..	14.7
Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 population		..	..	..	..	16.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births						3
Still Births—	Males		Females		Total	
Legitimate..	2	..	3	..	5	
Illegitimate.	—	..	—	..	—	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births				..		16
Still-birth rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births		..	..	..	..	13
Total live and still-births		..	..	..	..	309
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)				..	..	3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				..		10
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births				..	..	18.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births legitimate		..	..	..	..	10
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births—illegitimate						Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)		..	..	..		10
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)		..	..	..		10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths.. under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)		..	..	..	..	26
Deaths from maternal causes		..	..	..		Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births		..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)		..	..	..		37
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages)		..	..	..		13.4
Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (All causes and ages)		..	..	..		11.9

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups.

AGE GROUP	M.	F.
Under 4 weeks	3	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	—
1 — 4 years	2	—
5 — 14 years	1	—
15 — 24 years	4	2
25 — 34 years	1	—
35 — 44 years	1	2
45 — 54 years	7	5
55 — 64 years	23	11
65 — 74 years	38	40
75 years and over	54	84
	134	144

VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living.	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07
1952	15.32	12.75	54.85
1953	14.67	12.01	27.21
1954	14.57	11.39	20.50
1955	14.36	11.67	17.73
1956	16.14	11.97	14.24
1957	16.17	11.76	25.31
1958	16.14	12.79	16.76
1959	14.78	11.80	21.98
1960	15.52	11.70	26.87
1961	15.06	12.39	16.14
1962	16.05	12.09	11.15
1963	18.02	12.26	13.74
1964	17.84	11.47	8.24
1965	17.32	12.38	12.76
1966	15.59	12.61	17.41
1967	14.58	10.66	12.11
1968	14.9	12.9	3.02
1969	14.7	13.4	10.0

The chief causes of death are as follow :—

CAUSES OF DEATH				M.	F.
B.18	Infective and Parasitic Diseases..	..	..	—	1
B.19.3	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	..	..	1	1
B.19.4	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	..	..	5	5
B.19.6	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	..	..	10	—
B.19.7	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	..	..	—	4
B.19.9	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostrate ..	..	..	1	—
B.19.10	Leukaemia ..	..	..	—	1
B.19.11	Other Malignant Neoplasms ..	..	..	3	8
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus ..	..	..	—	2
B.23	Anaemias ..	..	..	2	1
B.24	Meningitis ..	..	..	1	—
B.26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	..	..	2	2
B.27	Hypertensive Disease ..	..	..	2	3
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	..	..	42	43
B.29	Other forms of Heart Disease ..	..	..	6	9
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease ..	..	..	19	24
B.31	Influenza ..	..	..	—	1
B.32	Pneumonia..	..	..	5	9
B.33.1	Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	..	..	7	3
B.33.2	Asthma ..	..	..	—	1
B.34	Peptic Ulcer ..	..	..	3	—
B.38	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	..	..	1	1
B.39	Hyperlasia of Prostate ..	..	..	2	—
B.42	Congenital Anomalies ..	..	..	1	1
B.44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	..	..	3	—
B.45	Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions ..	..	..	1	1
B.46.4	Other diseases of the Nervous System, etc. ..	..	..	1	—
B.46.5	Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	..	..	6	6
B.46.6	Other diseases of Respiratory System ..	..	..	1	1
B.46.7	Other diseases of Digestive System ..	..	..	1	3
B.46.8	Other diseases, Genio-urinary System ..	..	..	2	2
B.46.10	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	..	..	—	2
B.E.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	..	..	3	1
B.E.48	All Other Accidents ..	..	..	3	8
B.E.49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	..	..	—	1
				134	144

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1969

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Prematurity.. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic diseases of Newborn	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hyperaemia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1969 :

Age periods	New Cases.				Net† Deaths in Hexham Rural District.			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases Notified During 1969 :

Measles ..	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	..	..	1
Hepatitis	..	..	..	1

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR 1969

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO REGISTRAR
GENERAL :

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	Nil
OUTBREAKS due to Identified Agents				Nil
OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE				Nil
SINGLE CASES :—				
Agent identified	..	..	..	Nil
Unknown cause	..	..	..	Nil
TOTAL				Nil

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

(1) Hospitals

There are in the District three hospitals under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These comprise the Charlotte Straker Hospital and the Bridge End Maternity Hospital at Corbridge, and Wooley Hospital. These hospitals together with the Hexham General Hospital, the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(2) Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross Society, acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council, provide an ambulance service which serves the District. Ambulance Stations are situated at Corbridge and at Hexham. Patients requiring transport, but not an ambulance are brought in by car. In an extensive area with poor communications this is a very valuable service. Some of the cars are provided by the British Red Cross Society, others by agents in the various villages.

(3) Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the District. Home Helps are available to households where such help is required owing to illness or confinement, and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee, Priory Buildings, Hexham.

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held by the Northumberland County Council in the district :

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS :

Acomb	Miners' Institute Hall, Acomb. Alternate Thursdays : 1-30 — 4 p.m.
Allendale.. ..	Dr. Parker's Surgery. Alternate Tuesdays : 1-30 — 4 p.m.
Corbridge ..	Bridge House Surgery, Corbridge. Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m. — 12 noon. 1-30 — 4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge..	Tyneholme Surgery. Every Monday : 2 — 4 p.m.
Humshaugh ..	Village Hall. Every fourth Thursday : 1-30 — 4 p.m.
Newbrough ..	Women's Institute. Every fourth Wednesday : 1-30 — 4 p.m.
Riding Mill ..	Parish Hall. Every fourth Thursday : 1-30 — 4 p.m.

Stocksfield .. The Clinic, Branch End,
Stocksfield.
Alternate Mondays :
9-30 a.m. — 12 noon.
1-30 — 4 p.m.

Wylam Methodist Church Hall.
Alternate Tuesdays :
1-30 — 4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :

Allendale .. Dr. Parker's Surgery.
Alternate Tuesdays :
1-30 — 4 p.m.

Stocksfield .. The Clinic, Branch End,
Stocksfield.
Alternate Tuesdays :
1-30 — 4 p.m.

(5) Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this area are combined. There are nine Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Rural District.

WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Outhwaite, the Engineer and Surveyor, for the following details of construction works proposed or in hand.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Works under Construction by Contractors

Phases I and II Mid-Tyne Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

Works under Preparation by Engineer's Department

Allendale and Ropehaugh.

Works to be Designed by Engineer's Department

Newton
Hardhaugh
Wall

WATER

Schemes Completed During 1969

Brunton area Stage II
Settlingstones

Works Under Preparation

Keenleyside
Bingfield
Great Swinburne
West Land's End, Haydon Bridge

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969**

WATER SUPPLIES

Mains Extensions

Phase II of the Brunton extension supplying properties between Acomb village and Wall Fell and the Newbrough extension supplying the Settlingstones area was completed during the year. Two extensions to supply East Lands Ends, Haydon Bridge and Swinburne were approved and a further extension to supply the Keenley area of Allendale is awaiting Ministry approval.

New Connections

180 new connections were made to the mains, 165 of which were new houses.

Sampling

During the year, 118 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 54 from public supplies and 64 from private supplies. The results are tabulated below.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

	Total Number of Samples Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory
Acomb	5	5	—
Allendale.. ..	2	2	—
Allenheads	1	1	—
Anick	2	2	—
Aydon	1	1	—
Bingfield.. ..	1	1	—
Catton	2	1	1
Corbridge.. ..	6	6	—
Fourstones	1	1	—
Haydon Bridge	9	5	4
Humshaugh	3	3	—
Leadgate.. ..	1	1	—
Newbrough	2	2	—
Newton	1	1	—
Ovington.. ..	1	1	—
Riding Mill	2	2	—
Sandhoe	2	2	—
Slaley	3	3	—
Stagshaw.. ..	1	1	—
Stocksfield	3	3	—
Wall	4	4	—
Warden	1	1	—
TOTALS	54	49	5

PRIVATE AND PROPOSED SUPPLIES

64 samples were taken, the results of which are given below :

	Number Samples Taken		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisfactory		Total Samples Taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Taylorburn Farm, Ninebanks ..	4	—	2	—	2	—	4
Mowden Hall School, Stocksfield ..	3	—	1	—	2	—	3
Stelling Hall	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Great Swinburne, Barrasford ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
Sunnyside Cottage, Coalcleugh ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Keeper's Cottage, Stagshaw ..	5	—	1	—	4	—	5
West Lodge, Howden Dene ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Humbleton Cottage, Langley ..	6	—	6	—	—	—	6
Eastlands End Farm, Haydon Bridge ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Nilston Rigg, Haydon Bridge ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Haydon Spa, Haydon Bridge ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Edge House, Hexhamshire ..	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
Walwick Grange, Humshaugh ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
River Brae, Chollerford ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Low Brunton	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hall's Nurseries, Ovington ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wooley Sanatorium, Slaley ..	5	—	5	—	—	—	5
Snod's Edge Farm, Shotley Bridge ..	4	—	2	—	2	—	4
Carterway Heads, Shotley Bridge ..	3	—	1	—	2	—	3
Burnside Cottage, Newlands ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Summerfield Farm, Shotley Bridge ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
Eddis Bridge Farm, Shotley Bridge ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Shotley Fell, Shotley Bridge ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Crag Cottage, Wall ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Springfield, Wall ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Wall Quarry	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
Frankham Fell	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
	64	—	28	—	36	—	64

**DETAILS OF HOUSES AND POPULATION
SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES**

PARISH.	SUPPLIED DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPE	
	No. of Houses	Popul- ation	No. of Houses	Popul- ation
Acomb.. ..	452	1252	1	—
Allendale	756	1571	13	39
Blanchland	62	175	—	—
Broomhaugh & Riding ..	287	625	—	—
Broomley & Stocksfield ..	711	1681	—	—
Bywell.. ..	46	126	—	—
Chollerton	140	458	—	—
Corbridge	991	2901	—	—
Haydon Bridge	882	2208	—	—
Healey.. ..	17	46	—	—
Hedley	70	190	—	—
Hexhamshire	116	362	—	—
Hexham Low Quarter ..	101	232	—	—
Horsley	104	312	—	—
Humshaugh	213	555	—	—
Newbrough	247	633	—	—
Ovingham	236	677	—	—
Ovington	135	399	—	—
Sandhoe	168	392	—	—
Simonburn	3	9	—	—
Shotley Low Quarter ..	40	122	—	—
Slaley	162	741	—	—
Wall	103	248	—	—
Warden	92	278	—	—
Whittington	67	171	—	—
Wylam	710	1497	—	—
	6911	17851	14	39

HOUSING

Council House Building

During the year 46 Council houses were completed, 31 of which were Old Persons' bungalows. Two houses were specially built to meet the needs of disabled persons and a further 117 houses were under construction at the end of the year. This figure includes the Bed-sitting room units at the Hostel at Corbridge. Schemes in various stages are in hand for the erection of houses at Ovington — 16, Ovingham — 38, Newbrough — 25, and Allendale — 40. Negotiations are in progress to purchase further land at Haydon Bridge.

The work of modernisation of pre-war Council houses is in hand and the Orchard Avenue estate at Acomb (26 houses), is nearing completion.

During the year the Council purchased 16 houses at Settlingstones, Newbrough, from the Duke of Northumberland, following the closure of Settlingstones Mines.

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 1,098 of which 158 are Old Persons' bungalows.

Central Heating :

In view of the compulsory installation of central heating in all new houses, the Council agreed to offer similar facilities to tenants of existing houses, the tenants being given the choice of solid-fuel or Electric night-store heating and also gas where available. Arrangements were made for two show houses to be open for inspection by tenants to assist them in choosing the type of heating they preferred. It was also agreed that central-heating should be installed in all pre-war houses as they were modernised.

Garages :

The Council has now 115 lock-up garages situated on various estates. There are also two areas of land providing sites for 19 garages erected by tenants.

Houses Completed in 1969 :

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. By Local Authority :			
Acomb	8	—	8
Allendale	1	—	1
Gunnerton	9	—	9
Haydon Bridge	15	—	15
Ovingham	12	—	12
Wylam	1	—	1
B. By Other Persons or Bodies	—	101	101
	46	101	147

Houses under Construction at 31 12 69 :

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. By Local Authority :			
Corbridge	72	—	72
Barrasford	20	—	20
Stocksfield	25	—	25
B. By Other Persons or Bodies	—	68	68
	117	68	185

Council House Applications

72 families were rehoused during the year as a result of new building and casual vacancies. By exchange of tenancies a further 15 tenants were moved to houses more suitable to their needs.

At the end of the year there were 405 applications for General Purpose houses and 256 for Old Persons' accommodation.

839 visits were made in connection with the allocation of houses.

DETAILS OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AT 31/12/69

DISTRICT	Pre-War Houses	Agri-cultural Cottages	Houses acquired for Improvement	Post War Houses		Total
				General Purpose	Old Persons	
Acomb.. ..	6	—	—	96	28	150
Allendale ..	—	—	1	21	6	28
Barrasford ..	—	—	—	16	3	19
Bingfield ..	—	4	—	—	—	4
Colwell.. ..	—	—	—	5	—	5
Corbridge ..	26	—	7	181	12	226
				(inc. 2 shops)		
Fourstones ..	12	—	—	16	—	28
Gunnerton ..	—	—	—	15	—	15
Haydon Bridge	18	—	—	114	23	155
Hedley.. ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Horsley ..	—	4	20	9	—	33
Humshaugh ..	6	—	6	6	6	24
Juniper ..	—	2	—	—	—	2
Newbrough ..	—	—	—	49	16	65
New Ridley ..	12	—	—	—	—	12
Ovingham ..	6	—	—	46	12	64
Ovington ..	18	—	—	12	10	40
Riding Mill ..	—	—	—	—	2	2
Settlingstones	—	—	16	—	—	16
Slaley	—	4	—	12	12	26
Stocksfield ..	—	—	—	56	8	64
Wall	8	—	—	8	3	19
Whittington ..	—	4	—	—	—	4
Wylam ..	—	—	—	77	17	94
	132	18	51	739	158	1098

Council House Maintenance :

Following a report on the cost to the Council of repairing, cleaning and in some cases renewing cookers where changes of tenancy took place, the Council decided that cookers in all existing general purpose houses be handed over to tenants and that no cookers be provided in future either to incoming tenants of existing houses or to tenants of new houses. This decision did not apply to Old Persons' accommodation.

Only three major items of maintenance were carried out during the year. These were the renewal of windows at eight Agricultural cottages at Bingfield and Horsley at a total cost of approximately £1,600, and the external painting of 224 houses costing £3,535.

Improvement Grants

The notable feature this year was the passing of the Housing Act, 1969, which dealt with the long-awaited increases in grants towards the cost of conversion and improvement of dwellings. In the case of Discretionary Grants the maximum grant was increased to £1,000 except in the case of the conversion of a building of three or more storeys where the maximum grant was increased to £1,200 per dwelling provided. A new feature was the inclusion for grant of certain items of repair and replacement.

Increases in the limits of Standard Grants were also made bringing the maximum grant for the provision of the five basic amenities to £200 or £450 where the work involved the installation of a septic tank, the building-on of a bathroom or the provision of piped water.

This new Act has stimulated the numbers of applications for grant which had been slowly decreasing over a number of years. Although the Act was in force for only four months of the year the numbers of grants approved exceed any year since 1965.

89 Grants were approved during the year comprising 74 Discretionary and 15 Standard grants.

The following are the percentages of different types of houses for which grants have been approved.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Tenanted farmhouses, farm and estate cottages | 39% |
| 2. Owner Occupied houses | 39% |
| 3. Rented houses | 22% |

The total number of grants approved since the inception of the scheme in 1949 is 1,435 representing 18% of the houses in the District.

**SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT
GRANTS APPROVED**

Year	No. of houses	Grants Approved
1951	1	£ 287
1952	12	2,305
1953	32	8,135
1954	93	25,367
1955	134	35,740
1956	102	28,528
1957	96	30,790
1958	72	20,999
1959	99	28,703
1960	76	23,261
1961	63	18,093
1962	82	25,571
1963	74	22,975
1964	76	22,184
1965	62	22,126
1966	50	16,936
1967	45	15,680
1968	46	16,336
1969	74	35,205
Totals	1,289	£399,213

Summary of Standard Grants Approved

Year	No. of applica- tions	BASIC AMENITIES PROVIDED				
		Fixed bath or shower	Wash- hand basin	Internal water closet	Hot water system	Septic Tank
1960	1	—	—	—	1	—
1961	5	1	3	4	1	—
1962	10	4	5	9	2	—
1963	13	5	4	10	4	—
1964	27	19	20	27	17	1
1965	30	18	18	28	17	13
1966	24	13	15	22	14	6
1967	21	9	10	21	9	13
1968	16	11	11	15	11	5
1969	18	6	8	18	6	1
Totals	165	86	94	154	82	39

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Unfit Houses :

Action was taken under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, in respect of 18 houses which were considered to be unfit for habitation.

As a result 11 Undertakings were accepted, one Closing Order and five Demolition Orders were made. One owner voluntarily closed his property.

HOUSING SURVEY

This survey which was begun last year has been continued and the following table gives the results to date. Owners continue to be approached to provide amenities in those houses which are lacking.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING SURVEY at 31/12/69

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses with all Standard Amenities</i>			
Simonburn..	..	..	..	78%
Horsley ..	..	..	..	80%
Acomb ..	..	..	..	75%
Ovington ..	..	..	..	87%
Humshaugh ..	..	..	..	83%
Haydon ..	..	..	..	78%
Corbridge ..	..	..	..	93%

Rent Act, 1957

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

Privy Conversions

1 grant towards the cost of converting a privy into a water closet was made during the year.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the District all of which are in regular use.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

1,585 animals were slaughtered during the year. Inspection was carried out in all cases and the carcasses were stamped in accordance with the above regulations.

The figures in the accompanying tables give details of the meat condemned. No tuberculosis was found in the carcasses and offals inspected.

The most common cause of condemnation was cirrhosis of the liver.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed Dressed and undressed carcasses.. .. .	388	—	—	1137	60
Number inspected	388	—	—	1137	60
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	3	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	134	—	—	17	2
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysterci :</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised or totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions	TOTAL
Cattle (excluding Cows)	—	1441 lbs	1441 lbs
Cows	—	—	—
Other animals	—	72 lbs	72 lbs
TOTAL	—	1513 lbs	1513 lbs

Diseases or Condition	Weight of meat condemned
	lbs.
Abscesses	96
Actinobacillosis	39
Arthritis	8
Telangiectasis	14
Cysticercus Bovis	235
Cirrhosis	946
Pericarditis	4
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	2
Parasitic Conditions	23
Peritonitis	21
Injuries and Bruising	125
	1,513 lbs.

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

Unsound Food	Surrendered	Seized	Legal proceedings
Tinned Meats	36 lbs	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	237 lbs	—	—
Other Foods	21 lbs	—	—
TOTALS	294 lbs	—	—

Poultry Premises

There is one poultry packing station in the Rural District which deals solely with turkeys.

No. of Premises	No. of visits	No. of Birds killed	Type of Birds slaughtered
1	9	15,000	Turkeys

Percentage of Birds rejected by Processor for human consumption	Weight of Poultry condemned by Local Authority
0.1 (Est.)	Nil

The above processing premises slaughter according to seasonal demand.

No routine inspection of birds is carried out after slaughter. However, spot checks on the carcasses are made when visiting the premises for hygiene purposes.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

158 visits were made to food premises during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

No prosecutions were taken under the above regulations during the year.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

PARISH	1. Hotels and Inns	2. Social & Working Mens' Clubs	3. School Canteens	4. Works Canteens	5. Butchers	6. General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	7. Cafes	8. Fish & Chip Shops.	9. Wet Fish Shops.	10. Bakehouses.	11. Hospitals	12. Poultry Packing Stations	13. Dairies
Acomb	3		1		1	5	1	1					
Allendale	13		4			14	1						
Blanchland	1		1		1	2	3					1	
Broomhaugh/Riding	2		1	1	2	3				2			1
Broomley	1	1	2			1							
Bywell..	1		1			8							
Chollerton	3		1			1					2		
Corbridge	8	1	3	1	3	13	3	1	1	1			
Haydon	6	1	5		2	14	1	1		1			
Healey			1										
Hedley	1					1							
Hexham Low Quarter	1					1							
Hexhamshire	1		1										
Horsley	2					2							
Humshaugh	2		1		1	2	1						
Newbrough	1		2			1							
Ovingham	2		1		1	3							
Ovington	2	1				3		1					
Sandhoe	2		1	1		1					1		
Shotley Low Quarter	2		1	1		3	1						
Simonburn						1							
Slaley	2		1			1					1		
Wall ..	1		1			2							
Warden	2					2							
West Allen			1			1							
Whittington	1		2		1	1				1			
Wylam	4		1		1	7							
	64	4	33	4	13	97	10	4	1	5	4	1	1

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960**Regulations 16 & 19**

Type of Premises	No. of premises	Regulation 16 Wash-haud basins		Regulation 19 Sinks	
		No. provided	No. required	No. provided	No. required
Social Clubs and Public Houses ..	68	66	—	68	—
School and Work Canteens.. ..	37	37	—	37	—
Butchers	13	13	—	14	—
General Dealers etc.	97	97	—	97	—
Cafes	10	10	—	10	—
Fish & Chip Shops..	4	4	—	4	—
Wet Fish Shops ..	1	1	—	1	—
Bakehouses.. ..	5	5	—	5	—
Poultry Packing Stations	1	1	—	1	—
	236	234	—	237	—

Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are 90 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 16)

4 premises were registered during the year.

MILK**Milk Sampling : Brucellosis**

Routine sampling is carried out on a Quarterly basis.

There are 48 farms in the District retailing raw milk, nine of which are at present included in the Ministry's "Accredited Herds" scheme.

As a result of positive culture tests from bulk samples three separate Herd investigations were carried out.

At two farms, all animals which gave positive culture results were slaughtered. At the remaining farm reactors were removed permanently from the herd.

Month	No. of Farms Sampled	Samples Taken	Ring Test		Culture Test	
			Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Jan.	8	18	—	18	—	—
Feb.	17	36	5	31	—	5
March	9	18	—	18	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	12	19	1	18	—	1
June	22	48	7	41	3	4
July	11	22	1	21	1	—
July	11	20	6	14	1	5
Aug.	6	10	3	7	—	3
Sept.	12	28	1	27	—	1
Oct.	15	26	—	26	—	—
Nov.	11	17	—	17	—	—
Dec.	14	30	3	27	—	3
Total	148	292	27	265	5	22

Herd Investigation :

Month	Ref. Number	No. of Samples Taken	Ring Test		Culture Test	
			Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Jan.	9	9	1	8	1	8
Jan.	46	38	9	29	1	37
July	23	75	15	60	13	62
July	9	4	1	3	—	4
July	46	9	5	4	2	7
Aug.	46	35	7	28	—	35
Total		170	38	132	17	153

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal by direct labour is carried out by two 18 cubic yard 'Karrier' rear loaders (purchased 1967 and 1968), two 14 cubic yard 'Shelvoke and Drewry' rear loaders (purchased 1963) and one 10 cubic yard Bedford side loader (purchased 1964). There is also one Bedford side loader which is retained as a spare vehicle. Collection in the Allendale, Allenheads and West Allen areas is carried out by contract.

A central garage has been constructed at Tyne Mills, Hexham where, with the exception of the Stocksfield Refuse wagon, all the Council's vehicles are housed.

There are now 7,878 houses in the District and a weekly service is given to 6,395 houses, a fortnightly service to 370 houses and a monthly collection to 189 houses. The latter are mainly farms and other outlying properties. The percentage of houses from which collections are made is now 90.

236 houses were included in the collection service during the year, mainly new properties.

1. By Direct Labour

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS :

Acomb	377
Blanchland	43
Broomhaugh and Riding Mill.. .. .	295
Stocksfield	736
Corbridge	1,045
Haydon	578
Healey	40
Hedley	57
Hexhamshire and Low Quarter	103
Horsley	111
Humshaugh, Walwick and Lincoln Hill	150
Newbrough, Fourstones and Settlingstones.. .. .	343
Ovingham	345
Ovington	178
Sandhoe, Stagshaw	66
Slaley, Trygill	119
Wall	90
Warden	60
Wylam	711
Anick, Oakwood, The Riding.. .. .	94
North Tyne Area, Whittington	356
Halton, Shildon, Aydon Newton Hall, Welton, Stelling, Bywell, Peepy	185
	6,082

FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

Langley, Elrington	56
Minsteracres, Kiln Pit Hill, Shotley Area, Broomley, Whittonstall	177
Colwell, Hallington, Bingfield, Fallow- field, St. Oswalds	137
	370

2. By Contract

Allendale and Catton	439
Allenheads, West Allen	236
	675
	7,127

Refuse Collection Statistics

Total number of occupied houses in district..	7,878
Total number of houses scavenged	7,127
Total number of houses scavenged by direct labour.. .. .	6,452
Total number of houses scavenged by contract	675
Percentage of houses scavenged	90.0%
Total estimated tonnage collected per annum	7,248

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	32	12	—	—
TOTAL	92	43	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.)	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	8	—	2	—

Part VII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no persons residing in the Hexham Rural District employed as outworkers.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspections

The 38 contraventions outstanding from the previous year have now been remedied. A further 26 contraventions were noted from inspections during this year. A large number of these were of a minor nature such as the display of abstracts of the Act.

The number of employees working in registered premises is now 368 persons.

Accidents

There were no reported accidents during the year.

There were no legal proceedings instituted during the year.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises inspected during year
Offices	2	16	10
Retail shops	1	63	49
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ..	Nil	23	23
Fuel Storage Depots..	Nil	1	1
Totals	3	103	83

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed		
	Males	Females	Total
Offices	24	13	37
Retail Shops	57	121	178
Catering Establishments .. open to the public, canteens	45	105	150
Fuel Storage Depots.. ..	2	1	3
	128	240	368

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Sec- tion	No. of Contraventions found		Sec- tion	No. of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	9	13	Sitting facilities ..	Nil
5	Overcrowding	Nil	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	Nil
6	Temperature	2	15	Eating facilities ..	Nil
7	Ventilation.. ..	Nil	16	Floors, passage and stairs	3
8	Lighting	1	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	Nil
9	Sanitary Conveniences	2	18	Protection of young persons from danger ous machinery ..	Nil
10	Washing facilities ..	2	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	Nil
11	Supply of Drinking water	Nil	23	Prohibition of heavy work	Nil
12	Clothing Accommodation ..	1	24	First Aid General provisions	3
			50	Display of Abstract of Act	3
				Total	26

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Abandoned Cars

Four abandoned cars were removed and disposed of during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1959

All tips and sewage disposal works were regularly treated and are relatively free from rodent infestation. A total of 579 inspections and revisits were made at the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

Sewers have been test baited and with the exception of three sites, were found free from infestation.

1. Agricultural Premises :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 88				No. Clear
239	Rats .. 45		Mice .. 43		151
	Major 5	Minor 40	Major 1	Minor 42	

2. Business Premises :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 10				No. Clear
78	Rats .. 4		Mice .. 6		68
	Major —	Minor 4	Major 1	Minor 5	

3. Dwelling Houses :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 181				No. Clear
361	Rats .. 111		Mice .. 109		141
	Major 7	Minor 104	Major 5	Minor 104	

4. Refuse Tips :

No. of tip inspections	No. of infestations .. 19				No. Clear
379	Rats .. 19		Mice .. —		360
	Major 4	Minor 15	Major —	Minor —	

5. Sewage Disposal Works :

No. of S.D.W inspections	No. of infestations .. 12				No. Clear
	Rats .. 12		Mice .. —		188
	Major —	Minor 12	Major —	Minor —	
200					

Details of Premises Treated for Insect Pests

183 premises were treated for insect pests.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

7 applications for renewal of licence to keep a boarding establishment were received. The premises were all satisfactory and licences were issued.

Pet Animal Act, 1951

There are no licensed premises in the District.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960**

Other than individual sites there are 8 sites providing accommodation for between 15 and 40 caravans.

The Orchard, Corbridge. (40 caravans)

The Hermitage, Ovingham (15 caravans)

Lilswood, Hexhamshire. (15 caravans)

Allendale Station. (40 caravans)

Eastlands End, Haydon Bridge. (23 caravans)

Town Foot, Slaley. (Caravan Club Site — Unlicensed)

Fallowfield Dene, Acomb (Caravan Club Site—Unlicensed)

Barrasford Park, Barrasford (60 caravans)

SUMMARY OF VISITS

From 1st January, 1969 to 31st December, 1969

Council Housing :

Allocation	839
Maintenance and Management	4,013

Housing Acts, 1957-1969 :

Improvement Grants	195
Survey for Improvements	13
Housing Inspections (I.U.H.)	65
Housing Survey	1,051
Miscellaneous	216

Public Heath Acts, 1936—1961 :

Nuisances	65
Drainage and Drain Testing	135
Refuse Collection and Disposal	356
Water Sampling, etc.	158
Infectious Diseases	5
Miscellaneous	107

Food & Drugs Act, 1955**& Regulations (Supervision of Food) :**

Meat Inspection	313
Food Inspection	33
Food Premises	140
Ice Cream Premises	18
Ice Cream Sampling	7
Milk Sampling	196
Milk — Other Visits	38
Miscellaneous	29

Slaughter Houses Act and Regulations 6

Other Acts :

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	14
Office, Shops & Railway Premises Act.. .. .	83
Factories Act, 1937 — 1961	13
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1,826
Pet Animals Act, 1951	2
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	4
Civic Amenities Act	13

TOTAL 9,953
